

Now comes Dana J. Puopolo, a Telecommunications Engineer with over 30 years experience, who respectfully files his comments supporting the petitioner in the above captioned proceeding. Up until deregulation and the birth of the Internet, telecommunications was in the hands of a but a few large companies. Deregulation allowed the consumer to purchase his own telephones and other telecommunications equipment, to choose his choice of long distance companies (reducing costs of long distance calls dramatically), and now to use the power of VOIP and other new technologies (still in their infancy) to take control over their local telecommunications service. Lately, however I have seen an alarming change in the landscape. The number of ILECs is getting alarmingly small. They are getting into the long distance business (mainly because of their promises of opening up their facilities to CLECs, something I refer to as "The ILECs' big lie"). They are buying each other up in a frenzy of consolidation never envisioned be Judge Greene. Here in Santa Monica, California for example I have the same local telephone company that I had when I lived back in Masssachusetts (Verizon)! I believe that to "Level the playing field", the Commission should do whatever it can to allow for the unencumbered development of alternative telecommunications services that benefit the consumer. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Commission to grant Pulver.com's petition for a Declaratory ruling. One more comment that I would like to make: I have been reading the comments already filed by ILECs in this proceeding and realize that all of them do not support pulver.com. I think this in itself speaks volumes as to why it should be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana J. Puopolo